



The President's Daily Brief

24 July 1971

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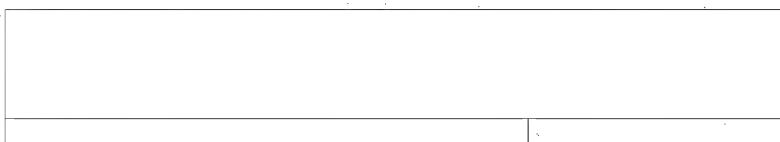
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

24 July 1971

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS



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Egyptian President Sadat's lengthy speech last evening reflects Cairo's growing frustration and deepening resignation over domestic affairs, the state of affairs in the Arab world, and the continuing stalemate with Israel. (Page 3)

There is additional strong evidence that Hanoi anticipates higher levels of fighting during the next dry season. (Page 4)

The demotion of Soviet Politburo member Voronov from his job as premier of the Russian Federation is likely the first of a series of moves foreshadowed by the expansion of the Politburo at the party congress in April. (Page 5)

In Sudan, General Numayri's forces are mopping up remnants of the leftist coup group. (Page 6)

Vice President William Tolbert has been quickly sworn in as President following the death yesterday of Liberian President Tubman. (Page 7)

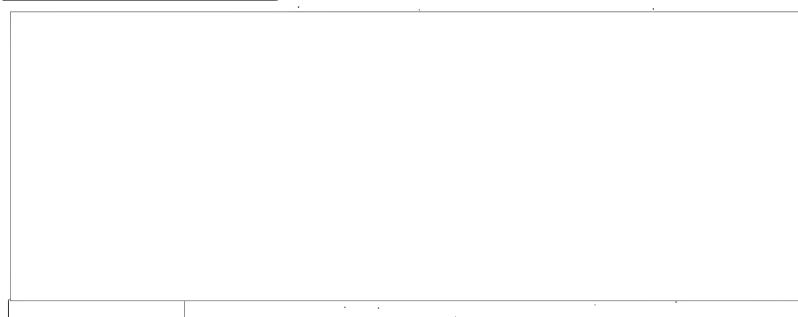
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CHINA



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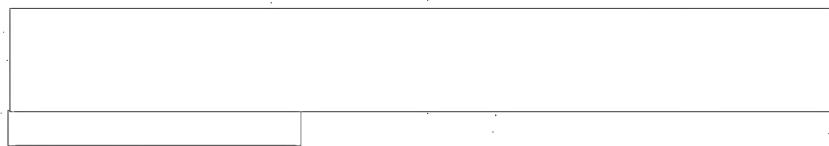
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EGYPT

Cairo's growing sense of frustration and resignation was evident in President Sadat's lengthy speech last night.

Frequently invoking the memory of Nasir, Sadat began his address to the opening session of Egypt's sole legal political organization, the Arab Socialist Union (ASU), with a review of the domestic situation. He dwelt on the need to create a strong, modern state and harkened back to the recent purge of the ASU by stating that it is "there to serve and not to rule." He admitted that "the people abhorred" the old ASU and called for "open dialogue and democracy" within the newly restructured body. Sadat also stated that he intended to reform the office of the presidency and ordered the study of further ministerial improvements.

In discussing inter-Arab affairs, Sadat expressed his sadness at the present disarray in the Arab world, particularly on the moribund "Eastern Front." Adding to what will almost certainly be a new period of strained relations between Egypt and Jordan, Sadat launched a bitter attack on King Husayn for his recent actions against the Palestinian guerrillas. Sadat employed the harshest language used in public by any Egyptian in recent years, accusing Husayn of "prevaricating" and adding that Husayn must bear the responsibility for the "crimes which have taken place in Jordan."

Sadat's bitterness probably stems in part from his view of the fedayeen as a useful element of pressure on Israel, and also from the amount of attention the events in Jordan have diverted from what he views as the primary problem of getting Israel to withdraw from Arab territory.

With regard to the prolonged impasse with Israel, Sadat restated his earlier vow that 1971 was a decisive year, but went further and pledged that he would "not allow 1971 to pass without this battle being decided," adding that "we will not accept this state of no war and no peace." Despite these gloomy words, however, Sadat declared that his previously announced terms for an interim Suez Canal settlement still stood and that he would "never stop looking for any road leading to peace if there is a chance for peace."

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VIETNAM

An authoritative North Vietnamese Army newspaper has provided another sign that Hanoi anticipates higher levels of fighting during the coming dry season.

A recent editorial in Quan Doi Nhan Dan claimed the Communists had been highly successful in providing logistic support to front-line forces during the first half of 1971. The article asserted that even greater efforts would be required in the second half of 1971 in view of the "new and increasingly high requirements of the battlefield."

[redacted] the Communists did in fact improve their support operations during this period. During the past dry season, for example, the Communists greatly improved their command and control over the transportation net and established a number of new rear service units in southern Laos and northeastern Cambodia. Logistics operations were at a high level in several parts of Cambodia, South Vietnam, and Laos last winter and spring.

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USSR

On Thursday Politburo member Gennady Voronov relinquished the premiership of the Russian Federation to assume the inconsequential post of chairman of the People's Control Committee.

The 60-year-old Voronov is an independent who has long been out of favor with Brezhnev and his allies. The sharp decline in his status follows a series of other reversals. In February his chief deputy for seven years was replaced by an official with career ties to Brezhnev. Brezhnev's ranking of the Politburo at the party congress this spring showed a steep slide for Voronov in the five years since the 1966 congress.



Voronov's independent and outspoken views have clearly antagonized other leaders. His rivalry with Brezhnev's unofficial deputy, Kirilenko, goes back to the early 1960s. His persistent advocacy of more agricultural reform at a lower cost contradicted the wishes of First

Deputy Premier Polyansky and conflicted with the agricultural program announced by Brezhnev last summer.

By precedent, Voronov's new post does not entitle him to membership on the Politburo. He replaces a protege of trade union chief Shelepin, another Politburo member in decline and the only incumbent ranked below Voronov at the congress. Voronov's demotion may be the start of a series of changes foreshadowed by the expansion of the Politburo from 11 to 15 members at the party congress in April.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SUDAN

Scattered fighting continues as Numayri's forces mop up partisans of the leftist coup group. The fighting centered in south Khartoum yesterday as the armored units that spearheaded Numayri's counter coup searched for rebels. Heavy shelling by tanks in the area of the Presidential Palace resulted in some damage to the British Embassy and the US mission building, where a Marine guard was wounded.

Four special military tribunals were formed by General Numayri to try members of the junta. Late yesterday Major Hashim al-Atta, who led the anti-Numayri putsch on 19 July, was sentenced to be executed by a firing squad along with a member of his junta and the two army commanders who had helped him seize power, but there are conflicting reports as to whether the sentences have been carried out.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



William V. S. Tubman



William R. Tolbert

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Liberia: Following the death of President Tubman yesterday, Vice President William Tolbert was sworn in as his successor in ceremonies that same evening in Monrovia. The initial transfer of power should be relatively smooth, although some behind-the-scenes maneuvering by ambitious politicians is inevitable. Tolbert, like the late president, is committed to a pro-Western foreign policy and the continuation of Liberia's historically close ties with the US.

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